



Quick Notes

from the Idaho Office of Highway Safety

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General Message from the Highway Safety Manager

Hi Highway Safety Partners,

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) just released the prepublication version of Special Report 300: Achieving Traffic Safety Goals in the United States: Lessons from Other Nations. The report explores the reasons why several high-income nations have achieved better highway safety records than the United States and recommends best practices from abroad that would fit in the U.S. context. The report examines traffic safety program management practices, risk reduction techniques, and the sources of public and political support for safety interventions.

According to the committee that produced the report, the United States could see greater improvement in highway safety through the adoption of systematic, results-oriented safety management practices that are flexible enough to take into consideration local and regional legal constraints, community attitudes, resources, and road system and traffic characteristics.

I encourage you to review this summary document titled, “Achieving Traffic Safety Goals in the United States - Lessons from Other Nations” at <http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/sr/sr300summary.pdf>. As we consider how to improve safety on our roadways for Idahoans, it is helpful to look consider all options, not just the ones we normally consider. This report helps us not limit ourselves to only what we are comfortable considering. Other countries are doing more and saving more lives.

This is Thanksgiving week and some harsh winter weather is hitting Idaho. Please encourage all of your friends and family to make smart driving choices as they travel to be with family and friends. Let’s do all we can to keep families whole during this upcoming holiday season.

Happy Thanksgiving from the Office of Highway Safety!

Mary Hunter

Faces of Distracted Driving

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Tuesday, November 16, 2010

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U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Launches “Faces of Distracted Driving” Online Awareness Campaign

Families affected by distracted driving share their stories in new web video series

WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today launched “Faces of Distracted Driving,” an online video series exploring the tragic consequences of texting and cell phone use while driving. The series features people

from across the country that have been injured or lost loved ones in distracted driving crashes. In 2009, nearly 5,500 people died and half a million were injured in accidents involving a distracted driver.

WATCH: "Faces of Distracted Driving" – www.distraction.gov/faces

"These videos are dramatic evidence that the lives lost to America's distracted driving epidemic aren't statistics. They're children, parents, neighbors, and friends," said Secretary LaHood. "These people have courageously come forward to share their personal tragedies in order to warn others against making the dangerous decision to talk or text behind the wheel."

National Transportation Safety Board's Most Wanted List

On November 16, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) put out a press release on providing a list of critical changes needed to reduce transportation accidents and save lives. The full press release can be viewed at <http://www.nts.gov/Pressrel/2010/101116.html>.

The brochure listing all improvements needed to improve all transportation safety can be viewed at http://www.nts.gov/recs/brochures/MostWanted_2010_2011.pdf.

The NTSB is an independent agency charged with determining the probable cause of transportation accidents and promoting transportation safety. The Board investigates accidents, conducts safety studies, evaluates the effectiveness of other government agencies' programs for preventing transportation accidents, and reviews appeals of enforcement actions involving airman and seaman certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the U.S. Coast Guard and civil penalties actions taken by the FAA.

To help prevent accidents, save lives and reduce injuries, the Board develops safety recommendations, based on its investigations and studies, which are issued to Federal, State and local government agencies, and to industry and other organizations in a position to improve transportation safety. These recommendations are the focal point of the NTSB's efforts to improve safety in the Nation's transportation system.

Emergency Nurses Association's New Report Shows Minnesota, Arkansas, Louisiana and Wisconsin Making Greatest Gains in Laws to Promote Roadway Safety

Washington State and Oregon Receive Highest Possible Scores; North Dakota Scores Lowest

Following is a November 17 press release from the ENA. Idaho was beat by North Dakota for making the least progress in improving our traffic safety laws.

Des Plaines, IL — A report released today by the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) indicates that many states are making progress toward making roads safer, with Minnesota, Arkansas, Louisiana and Wisconsin leading the way. Only two states in the nation, Oregon and Washington, met all the ENA criteria for roadway traffic safety laws and a third state, Tennessee, met all but one criterion. Arizona, Idaho, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota received the lowest scores, meeting fewer than half of the criteria. North Dakota's score of four is the lowest of any state. The report, 2010 ENA National Scorecard on State Roadway Laws: A Blueprint for Injury Prevention examines roadway safety laws in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and scores each based on 14 criteria. For the first time the report includes a distracted driving law among the criteria.

The 2010 ENA National Scorecard ranks states based on 14 types of legislation that address: seat belt use; child passenger safety; graduated driver licensing for teens; all-rider motorcycle helmet requirements; ignition interlock devices to prevent drunk driving; entering, sending, reading, or retrieving data for all drivers using cell phones or other interactive wireless communication devices; and the authority to develop, maintain and evaluate a state trauma system. States received one point for each type of legislation. With 14 points each, Oregon and Washington were the only states to receive the best possible score for the second time in a row.

Thirty-eight states and the District of Columbia either enacted laws since the 2008 report that improve their scores or already had in their statutes additional laws consistent with ENA criteria. Twelve states—Alabama, Arizona, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Virginia—showed no progress from 2008 to 2010 in meeting ENA criteria.

North Dakota is the only state that failed to make any progress since the first report was released in 2006. The next lowest scoring states are Idaho and Iowa, which each scored five points and have shown no progress since the 2008 ENA Scorecard was published. The state that made the greatest progress was Minnesota, which increased its score from five in 2008 to 11, followed by Arkansas which increased its score from three to eight.

“According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, every 12 minutes, someone dies in a car crash on U.S. roads and every ten seconds, someone is injured, taken to and treated in an emergency department for injuries sustained in a motor vehicle crash,” said ENA President Diane Gurney, RN, MS, CEN. “We know that many of those injuries and deaths are preventable through roadway laws and enforcement and we need policy makers to join us in supporting and passing laws that can save lives. Across the country, emergency department nurses, who treat the victims of motor vehicle crashes every day, are urging their policy makers to pass and enact more and better roadway safety laws.”

For the first time, the 2010 ENA National Scorecard includes a distracted driving law among the criteria. Twenty-six states and DC have passed or enacted laws that have a primary enforcement law that applies to entering, sending, reading or otherwise retrieving data, except in the case of an emergency, for all drivers using interactive wireless communication devices. According to the National Highway Safety and Transportation Administration, 5,474 people died in distraction-related motor vehicle crashes in 2009, of which cell phones as a distraction amounted to 18 percent of fatalities in the distraction-related crashes. Of all distractions while driving, texting has caused the most recent concern among state legislatures.

“Timely and appropriate care can be the crucial difference in whether a crash victim survives or dies,” said Gurney. “While most of us can choose where to seek primary care, victims of motor vehicle crashes are transported to the closest health facility, which may or may not be able to treat their injuries. We would like to see every state establish a trauma system that ensures that anyone injured in a crash is taken to a trauma center that can provide the type of care and the level of care they need.”

The 2010 ENA National Scorecard shows that 47 states and the District of Columbia have passed legislation that will allow them to develop and maintain statewide trauma systems. This is one state more than in the 2008 report. The only states without legislation addressing a statewide trauma system are Idaho, Rhode Island and Vermont.

The scorecard can be found at

<http://www.ena.org/IQSIP/Injury%20Prevention/IPResources/scorecard/Pages/Default.aspx>.